

RESOURCE SURVEY REPORT

Preliminary Catch Summary

National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Fisheries Science Center

Winter Bottom Trawl Survey
Cape Hatteras - Southern New England
February 4 - March 1, 2003

The enclosed listed and plotted data are of important commercial and recreational species caught during the Northeast Fisheries Science Center's 2003 winter bottom trawl survey aboard the *FRV DELAWARE II*. Tows were made with a standardized #36 Yankee flat trawl equipped with a rubber disc covered chain sweep, 30 fathom ground cables, 5 fathom legs and 1000 pound polyvalent doors. The cod end and upper belly were lined with 1/2-inch mesh to retain young-of-the-year fish.

Because of the 30-minute tow duration, and random selection of station locations, catches can be light compared to commercial tows. Also, vessel operations are on a 24-hour basis and catches have not been adjusted for day/night differences. Nevertheless, these data can provide useful information about distribution and relative abundance of fish from Cape Hatteras to Southern New England.

In an effort to make this report timely, the data are summarized from unaudited catch files generated from the Fisheries Scientific Computer System (FSCS). Therefore, data records in this report are provisional and subject to change.

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